UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/399
17 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with the instructions I have received, I request you to circulate the statement made by the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan on 17 May 1995 as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eldar KOULIEV
Permanent Representative

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Annex

STATEMENT OF 17 MAY 1995 BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF AZERBAIJAN

In a report transmitted on 15 May 1995 by the "Svoboda" radio station from its own correspondent in the Azerbaijani town of Hankendi, which is occupied by the armed forces of Armenia, reference was made, citing Armenian military intelligence sources, to concentrations of forces and matériel allegedly being conducted by the Azerbaijani army in the Barda, Agjabedi and Beilagan areas of confrontation between the armed forces of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

This statement could be classified as just one more unverified report. However, the Azerbaijani side is only too well aware of the working methods of Armenia's propaganda machine. It is noteworthy that the leadership of Armenia and representatives of Armenian society in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan are again resorting to their favourite means of manipulating public opinion prior to putting their aggressive intentions into effect.

The aggressive designs of Armenia's military and political leadership are also revealed by the conduct in March 1995 of exercises by its armed forces in the course of which offensive action was rehearsed, as well as the openly militarist statement of 9 May 1995 by a deputy of the Supreme Council of Armenia, Zory Balayan, made in the town of Hankendi in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, to the effect that the current objective of the Armenian armed forces is to capture towns in the Khanlar and Geranboy regions of Azerbaijan.

These propaganda measures are evidence of the fact that, as in the past, the Armenian side is again preparing public opinion on the eve of possible large-scale operations to capture more of Azerbaijan's territory.

The Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan officially states that, in conformity with the terms of the cease-fire agreement, it will not take any steps to build up and concentrate its forces and matériel in the area of combat operations.

In this connection, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan warns that if the newly begun next phase of the negotiating process on a peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict breaks down, and the cease-fire agreement is violated, full responsibility for the further development of events will rest with Armenia.